

LEGAL BASIS FOR GENDER INCLUSION IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

Photo: UN Women

International legal treaties and instruments

The [Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights](#) and the Convention on the [Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) are **legally binding** international treaties **for Member States**. All United Nations Member States in Africa except Somalia and Sudan have ratified or acceded to CEDAW. The Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are **legally bound** to put its provisions into practice. Unlike the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), CEDAW is not legally binding.

CEDAW General Recommendation 37

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (**CEDAW**) [General Recommendation 37 \(2018\) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change](#) explicitly links disasters, pandemics, and women's rights in an actionable way, taking into account the principles of substantive equality and non-discrimination, participation and empowerment, accountability, and access to justice. It serves as guidance to State Parties to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to disaster risk management and humanitarian response, and are reported in the Universal Periodic Review. It outlines the process of gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction in the context of Agenda 2030. This General Recommendation, therefore, places the CEDAW Committee at the forefront of **ensuring the accountability of States in their efforts to integrate a gender** perspective into climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies.¹

List of United Nations Member States in the Africa region who have acceded or ratified the CEDAW

This lists the [55 United Nations Member States in Africa](#), divided into five geographic regions ([defined by the OAU in 1976](#) - CM/Res.464QCXVI) which have acceded or ratified the CEDAW - https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2.

¹ CEDAW (2018) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Sixty-ninth session Statement of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on gender related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change: <https://wrdd.unwomen.org/explore/library/statement-committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women>.

Please visit the WRD Knowledge Hub topics: “[Global Frameworks](#)” for more information and visit the “[Legislation, Policies, Strategies, Plans, and Projects](#)” page for more detailed guidance on existing global frameworks and how to ensure gender-responsive DRR/DRM/CC laws, policies, strategies, and plans.

Geographical regions	S.no	Member states	Signature	Ratification, Accession(a), Succession(d)
Central Africa	1	Burundi	17 July 1980	08 January 1992
	2	Cameroon	06 June 1983	23 August 1994
	3	Central African Republic		21 June 1991 (a)
	4	Chad		09 June 1995 (a)
	5	Congo Republic	29 July 1980	26 July 1982
	6	DR Congo	17 July 1980	17 October 1986
	7	Equatorial Guinea		23 October 1984 (a)
	8	Gabon	17 July 1980	21 January 1983
	9	São Tomé and Príncipe	31 Oct 1995	03 Jun 2003
Eastern Africa	10	Comoros		31 Oct 1994 (a)
	11	Djibouti		02 December 1998 (a)
	12	Eritrea		05 September 1995 (a)
	13	Ethiopia	08 July 1980	10 September 1981
	14	Kenya		09 March 1984 (a)
	15	Madagascar	17 July 1980	17 March 1989
	16	Mauritius		09 July 1984 (a)
	17	Rwanda	01 May 1980	02 March 1981
	18	Seychelles		05 May 1992 (a)
	19	Somalia		NO
	20	South Sudan		30 April 2015 (a)
	21	Sudan		NO
	22	Tanzania	17 July 1980	20 August 1985
23	Uganda	30 July 1980	22 July 1985	
North Africa	24	Algeria		22 May 1996 (a)
	25	Egypt	16 July 1980	18 September 1981
	26	Libya		16 May 1989 (a)
	27	Mauritania		10 May 2001 (a)
	28	Morocco		21 June 1993 (a)
	29	Saharawi Republic		
	30	Tunisia	24 July 1980	20 September 1985
Southern Africa	31	Angola		17 September 1986 (a)
	32	Botswana		13 August 1996 (a)
	33	Eswatini		26 March 2004 (a)
	34	Lesotho	17 July 1980	22 August 1995
	35	Malawi		12 March 1987 (a)
	36	Mozambique		21 April 1997 (a)
	37	Namibia		23 Nov 1992 (a)
	38	South Africa	29 January 1993	15 December 1995
39	Zambia	17 July 1980	21 June 1985	
40	Zimbabwe		13 May 1991 (a)	
West Africa	41	Benin	11 November 1981	12 March 1992
	42	Burkina Faso		14 October 1987 (a)
	43	Cabo Verde		05 December 1980 (a)
	44	Cote d'Ivoire	17 Jul 1980	18 Dec 1995
	45	Gambia	29 July 1980	16 April 1993
	46	Ghana	17 July 1980	02 January 1986
	47	Guinea	17 July 1980	09 August 1982
	48	Guinea Bissau	17 July 1980	23 August 1985
	49	Liberia		17 July 1984 (a)
	50	Mali	05 February 1985	10 September 1985
	51	Niger		08 October 1999 (a)
	52	Nigeria	23 April 1984	13 June 1985
	53	Senegal	29 July 1980	05 February 1985
	54	Sierra-Leone	21 September 1988	11 November 1988
	55	Togo		26 September 1983 (a)



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